



NCI-FREDERICK ANIMAL CARE AND USE NEWSLETTER

April 2004

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Spring ACUC Semiannual Facility Inspections

The NCI-Frederick Animal Care and Use Committee is required to inspect at least once every six months all of the animal facilities on campus using the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* as a basis for evaluation. The areas of evaluation include: administrative, maintenance, safety, feed/bedding, caging, sanitation, pest control, animal health, and veterinary care. The ACUC inspection teams will be evaluating facilities during April and May to fulfill this requirement. The ACUC would like to thank the facility staff, technicians, and investigators in advance for their assistance and dedication to providing quality animal care at the NCI-Frederick.

Animal Study Proposal Renewals

The NCI-Frederick ACUC is required to conduct continuing review of ongoing animal activities at least once every three years. This is commonly known as the renewal of your animal study proposal. Some important items to keep in mind when renewing your animal study proposal:

- Download the most recent version of the Animal Study Proposal form for completion
- Review the current ACUC Policies and Guidelines to ensure compliance
- Incorporate any previously ACUC approved modifications into the text of your renewal
- Provide a math calculation to justify the number of animals that you are requesting (*NOTE: Be sure to include any animals currently housed in the facility that will transfer to the renewal*)
- Remember that animals are counted as soon as they are weaned ... so you may need to increase the number of animals used on your study to account for weanlings

Please contact the ACUC Coordinator at 301-846-7544 if you have any questions or need assistance with your proposal submissions.

Check out the newly **REVISED**
Animal Study Proposal Form at
[http://web.ncicrf.gov/ftp/asp/acuc/
proposal.asp](http://web.ncicrf.gov/ftp/asp/acuc/proposal.asp)

Lay Language for Study Objectives

When completing the NCI-Frederick Animal Study Proposal form, an investigator is requested to briefly describe in non-technical language the objective(s) of the study and how the study may benefit human or animal health or advance scientific understanding of biological processes (Section C). This section is included in the study form for two purposes: (1) to provide language so that the nonscientific and unaffiliated ACUC member can understand your justification for conducting this study; and (2) to provide language that the general public can understand in case your study is requested for disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Some helpful hints to ensure that this section is written properly: (1) the objectives should be written so that the average high school student can comprehend its meaning; (2) spell out all acronyms; and (3) provide a clear description of any scientific processes, procedures, and technologies that are not generally recognized by the average high school student (i.e., monoclonal antibody production).

Skin Lesions in Research Mice

Skin lesions are common in research mice and may include dermatitis, bite wounds or other traumatic injuries. Murine ulcerative dermatitis has many causes, which may include genetics, behavior, infectious agents, or may be study related. Most skin lesions start small but can lead to infection and protracted discomfort if left untreated or treated inappropriately. Therefore, euthanasia is recommended for chronic cases due to the labor-intensive nature of treatment and poor prognosis.

The Laboratory Animal Medicine (LAM) treatment policy has been revised: ***Animals must be treated at least twice daily with topical medication with daily monitoring for efficacy. If no improvement is noted in 3-5 days, LAM recommends changing medication. If the second round of treatment is unsuccessful euthanasia is recommended.*** We strive to maintain a balance between the well being of the animal and achieving the objective of the study. In selecting a treatment, our goal is to prescribe medication that will not introduce unwanted variables.

Due to the potential for physiological alterations, the use of steroid containing preparations is not recommended. LAM will maintain a centrally located pharmacy for distribution of approved topical medications.

Please contact LAM at 301-846-5195 for a list of currently available topical medications and their active ingredients.

Revised Guidelines and Policies

The ACUC has recently revised the following Guidelines and Policies:

Guidelines for Ascites Production
Guidelines for Classifying Category 3 Procedures on Animals

http://web.ncicrf.gov/ftp/asp/acuc/guidelines_nci.asp

Pathology Histotechnology Laboratory (PHL) Animal Delivery and Processing

Animals requiring necropsy and histopathology processing may be submitted to PHL after establishing a necropsy protocol. Animal study proposals that have a planned pathology element should be discussed with PHL prior to initiation of the study (please call 301-846 1281). Submit sick animals at any time during normal business hours (Monday-Friday 7.00 am - 4.00 pm plus on-call Saturday) ... please call ahead at 301-846-1609. Animals from Bethesda facilities need prior approval before shipment can be arranged. Scheduled necropsies require a minimum of 48 hours notice.

Animals should be submitted in coordination with the animal facility. Investigators are encouraged to request animal facility staff to deliver animals to PHL, this will ensure that all relevant procedures are followed as the location of the necropsy facility may vary depending on the prevailing health status of animal facility. Animal Submittal Requirements:

- Previously established necropsy protocol
- Prior scheduling (excluding sick or dead animals)
- Fully completed cage card* or photocopy and PHL submission label

***All animals must be submitted accompanied by with a cage card/label containing the following information:**

- ACUC Animal Study Proposal Number
- Necropsy Protocol Number
- Animal Number
- Animal Facility Building and Room
- Investigator Name
- Technician Name

Reason for submission with a description of clinical signs, if any. The submission is either "clinical" due to illness/death, or scheduled.

New Hybridoma Bank

The Developmental Studies Hybridoma Bank (DSHB) at the University of Iowa was established under the auspices of the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development to supply investigators with monoclonal antibodies at cost (e.g., 1 ml of supernatant costs \$25.00). Ten monoclonal antibodies purchased from the DSHB cost the same as one average antibody purchased commercially. Monoclonal antibodies can be ordered in the form of tissue culture supernatant, concentrate or ascites fluid; select hybridoma cell lines are also available. The DSHB continually welcomes new monoclonal antibody contributions. If you are interested, please visit <http://www.uiowa.edu/~dshbwww/> for additional information. Just a friendly reminder ... all cell lines must be MAP tested prior to use in animals at the NCI-Frederick.

Some Helpful Web Links

Lab Animal Magazine
<http://www.labanimal.com/>

Institute for Laboratory Animal Research
<http://dels.nas.edu/ilar/>

Regulations and Policies

Public Health Service Policy
<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/references/phspol.htm>

Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals
<http://www.nap.edu/readingroom/books/labrats/>

For additional information or assistance ...
please visit the ACUC website at

<http://web.ncicrf.gov/ftp/asp/acuc/main.asp>